

Pterichis moralesii (Cranichidinae, Orchidaceae), a new species from Colombia

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Pterichis moralesii, a new orchid species from Colombia, is described and illustrated. The differences between *P. moralesii* and similar species are briefly discussed and a key to the Colombian species of *Pterichis*, as well as information on the ecology and distribution of *P. moralesii* are provided.

Pterichis was described in 1840 by Lindley with *P. galeata* as a generitype; for many years, however, some species of this genus were classified under *Acraea*, *Goodyera* and *Prescottia*. The first revision of *Pterichis* was made by Schlechter (1911), who followed Bentham and Hooker (1883) concerning a wide definition of the taxon. Later, the same author described seven new species of *Pterichis* (Schlechter 1911b, 1912, 1913, 1921a, 1921b, 1922).

Currently *Pterichis* consists of 15–20 terrestrial species with basal, rosulate leaves. The flowers are non-resupinate, arranged in a loose, few-flowered inflorescence. The lip is sessile, concave, and variously ornate with papillae along the margins (Schweinfurth 1958, Nir 2000, Cribb 2003). The gynostemium is short, erect, with a rudimentary column part (between the ovary and the base of the anther). The anther is erect, motile, and 2-chambered. The pollinia are oblong-ovoid, usually relatively compact, and soft. The stigma is ventral, confluent, deeply concave, and pocket-like. The viscidium is single, detachable, cellular, thick, small, rounded or hood-like, asymmetric, usually producing a

hamulus (Szlachetko & Rutkowski 2000: 295–296, figs. 362–364).

The geographical range of the genus extends from Costa Rica, Panama and Jamaica to Argentina, with the greatest species diversity in the tropical Andes region. An occurrence of *Pterichis* was reported from 2600 m a.s.l., but most of the species grow above 3000 m a.s.l. in páramo and subpáramo (Cribb 2003, Dueñas Gómez & Fernández-Alonso 2009).

The first record of *Pterichis* from Colombia was by Schlechter (1920), and a total of nine species were found in this country so far (Morales 1986, Ortiz-Valdivieso & Uribe-Vélez 2007). Taxonomic novelties within this genus are rare and the latest one was published in 1986 (Morales 1986). During examination of herbarium material, a distinctive species of *Pterichis* was discovered and it is described here as new.

***Pterichis moralesii* Kolan. & Szlach., sp. nova** (Figs. 1 and 2)

TYPE: Colombia. Dept. Valle del Cauca. Mun. Pradera.

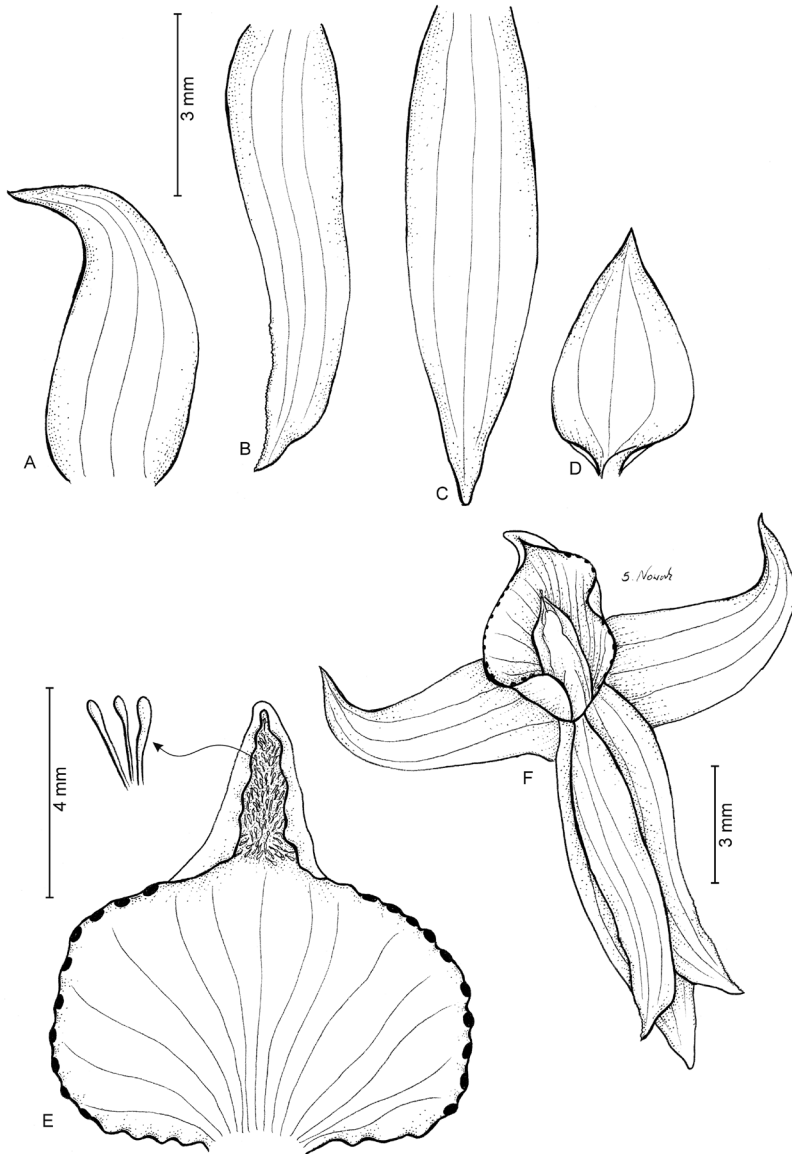


Fig. 1. *Pterichis moralesii* (drawn by S. Nowak from the holotype). — **A:** Lateral sepal. — **B:** Petal. — **C:** Dorsal sepal. — **D:** Floral bract. — **E:** Lip. — **F:** Expanded flower, seen from above.

Cuenca alta del Río Bolo, 3300–3600 m, 19–24 November 1998 *William G. Vargas 5056* (holotype HUA).

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honour of Gustavo Morales L., the author of the latest complete revision of the Colombian species of *Pterichis*.

Species distinguished by the congested, densely several-flowered inflorescence, glabrous tepals, apically serrate petals and lip middle lobe of the lip adorned with a tuft of long, clavate, glandular hairs.

Plant about 12 cm tall. Roots fasciculated, tuberous, (1.5)3.0–5.0 mm in diameter. Leaves 3,

basal, petiolate; blade probably linear-lanceolate (upper part of leaves damaged in holotype); petiole 1.5–2.0 cm long. Inflorescence terminal; scape about 10 cm long, glandular-pilose, with several tubular, lanceolate, acute sheaths; raceme 1.2–1.5 cm long, densely several-flowered (9-flowered in holotype). Floral bracts 7–10 mm long, ovate, acute, margins entire. Ovary ciliate, 4–5 mm long. Flowers dark yellow with purple spots. Tepals glabrous, 3-veined. Dorsal sepal 6–9 mm long and 1.2–2.2 mm wide, broadly lanceolate, obtuse to subacute. Lateral sepals 5.2–5.5 mm

long and 2.0–2.5 mm wide, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute. Petals 6–8 mm long and 1.00–1.75 mm wide, oblong-lanceolate, margins microscopically crenulate in apical external part, apex acute. Lip 5.5–6.2 mm long and about as wide, microscopically glandular, concave, cordate, papillose along slightly incurved margins, narrowed to a triangular apex, apex densely covered with long clavate, glandular hairs. Gynostemium about 4 mm long.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: *Pterichis moralesii* is known so far from one population found in the upper basin of the Bolo River, Department of Valle del Cauca. It grows terrestrially in páramo at about 3300–3600 m a.s.l.

Pterichis moralesii is easily distinguished by the dense, compact inflorescence, which is not observed in any other species of *Pterichis*. Based on the floral characters it seems to be related with *P. parvifolia* and *P. habenarioides*. From those species *P. moralesii* differs by the smaller habit, glabrous tepals and apically crenulate petals (Fig. 3).

Key to the Colombian species of the genus *Pterichis*

1. Inflorescence compact, dense *P. moralesii*
1. Inflorescence lax or sublux 2
2. Petals glabrous 3
2. Petals externally glandular-pilose 5



Fig. 2. Holotype of *Pterichis moralesii*.

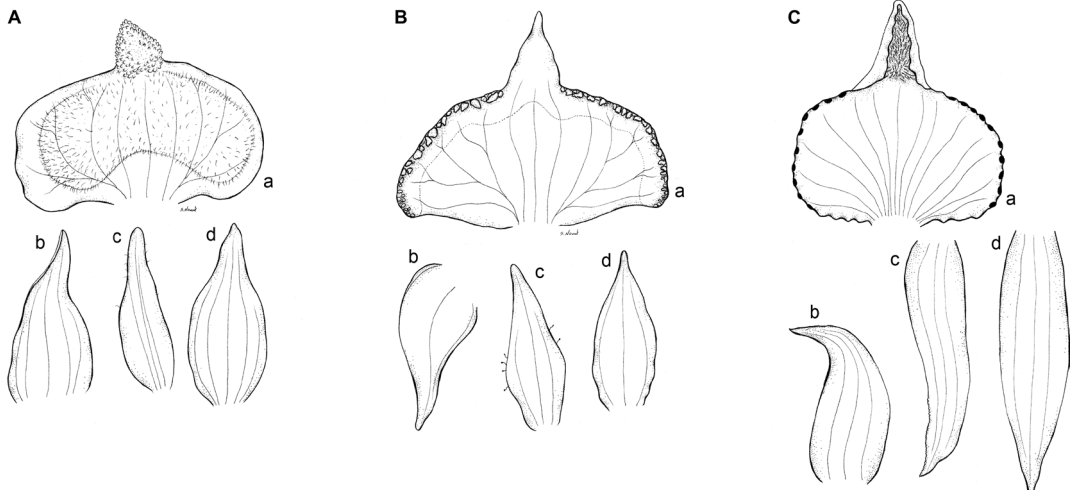


Fig. 3. Comparison of dissected flowers of (A) *Pterichis habenarioides*, (B) *P. parvifolia* and (C) *P. moralesii*. — a: lip; — b: lateral sepal; — c: petal; — d: dorsal sepal. Drawn by S. Nowak.

3. Petals spatulate, sepals glabrous *P. fernandezii*
 3. Petals not spatulate, sepals externally glandular-pilose 4
 4. Petals ligulate *P. silvestris*
 4. Petals ovate-oblong *P. galeata*
 5. Floral bracts elliptic *P. colombiana*
 5. Floral bracts ovate-lanceolate 6
 6. Sepals glabrous *P. parvifolia*
 6. Sepals glandular-pubescent 7
 7. Petals 3-veined 8
 7. Petals 2-veined 9
 8. Petals 3–4 times longer than wide *P. habenarioides*
 8. Petals 5–6 times longer than wide *P. multiflora*
 9. Leaf ovate-oblong, up to 5 × 2 cm *P. triloba*
 9. Leaf oblong-lanceolate, up to 7 × 1.2 cm .. *P. pauciflora*

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